

Director's Message

Dear Fellow Citizens,

Catawba County and her citizens continue to succeed despite the social and economic problems we faced during the past year, and that continue to attack our communities. While numerous opportunities for help abound, these problems are real and people are hurting. However, Catawbans are creative, innovative and hardworking, and have always found ways to excel even in the face of difficulty. Catawbans are high achievers.



It is good to celebrate our achievements in this year's annual report... the achievements of our community, our clients and our staff. Together over the past year, we gave the elderly a choice to remain in their own homes; ensured hurting citizens receive the necessities of life including food and assistance with medical expenses; helped residents of assisted living financially; protected adults and children from abuse, neglect and exploitation; created or expanded families through the beautiful process of adoption; facilitated Work First clients in finding employment; assured that parents support their children; saw teenagers have fewer pregnancies thanks to education and guidance; supported and encouraged families to remain together; and witnessed improvements in children's academic performance and behaviors.

We witnessed individual triumphs such as:

- L.I.N.K.S. graduates in foster care receiving full academic scholarships to college;
- an older child being adopted into his "forever family" through Family Builders;
- Work and Ride awarding a vehicle to a single parent of three for travel to work and daycare;
- the smile on a social worker's face after helping to reunify a family;
- a first-time homebuyer unlocking her front door for the first time;
- a H.E.A.R.T. client learning to read at age 62; and
- a troubled child learning to trust again as he climbs a mountain through Adventure Transitions.

These successes occurred even as the general population dealt with continuous economic distress. Citizens requested more help as Catawba County's employment base decreased by 10 percent over the last two years. The result is 10,000 lost jobs and many citizens taking pay reductions, as they are re-employed in other fields.

Our community will overcome the challenges of the current situation. In the meantime, Social Services is pleased to offer quality support with prompt assistance, with respect for the worth and dignity of our citizens, with minimum intrusiveness into the family, but always with the goal of protecting children and adults, and with a firm belief that quality services are an absolute necessity regardless of one's social or economic condition.

Thank you citizens for allowing the fine staff at Social Services to assist you during these trying times and to be a part of finding solutions for a social and economic recovery. Together we will continue to overcome and succeed.

Sincerely,
Bobby K. Boyd, ACSW
Director

Mission Statement

"The mission of Catawba Social Services is to improve the quality of life for our citizens by: preventing social problems; protecting adults, children and families from abuse and neglect; causing children to have permanent families; enabling adults and older foster children to become self-sufficient; assuring parents financially support their children; giving elderly and disabled a choice to remain in their homes rather than enter a rest home or nursing care facility; and connecting citizens with food, shelter, utilities and medical attention."

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